

**STATEMENT-III**

The ex-factory price of levy sugar is determined on the basis of the Statutory Minimum Price payable for sugarcane and conversion cost, etc. The Country has been divided into twenty zones based on agro-climatic conditions and each zone has a different ex-factory levy sugar price (notified annually under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955)

The range of ex-factory prices (wagon delivery) yearwise are as follows :

S.No.	Sugar year* 1st Oct.- 30th Sept.	Ex factory price (Rs. per Quintal)
1.	1993-94	651.55-902.13
2.	1994-95	748.25-943.82
3.	1995-96	825.81-1041.45

**Development of Buddhist Pilgrimage Places**

2444. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Buddhist pilgrimage places in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal for development of Kushinagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e). The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for the development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The financial assistance is to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen.

The places identified in Uttar Pradesh are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piorahwa and Sravasti. The major components of the project are strengthening of National and State Highways, improvement of local roads, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 12.25 lakhs to make a Restaurant-cum-waiting hall in Kushinagar during 1994-95. Besides, U.P. Airways has indicated Kushinagar as one of the centres for connecting the Buddhist circuit.

**Non-Basmati Rice**

2445. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-basmati rice of lower quality used to be sold at lower price in the international market due to low prices in the country;

(b) if not, whether the prices of such rice were increased in the country whereas the competitive rice exporting countries have reduced the price of their rice in international market during the past years;

(c) if so, whether the target set for export of rice during 1995-96 has been achieved;

(d) if so, the total quantity of rice exported; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) It is not possible to accurately compare the prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on account of different varieties traded, variations in quality, and additional expenditure incurred in grading and packaging for exports.

(b) As per the EXIM policy, non-basmati rice can be exported freely without any quantitative ceilings and minimum export price restrictions. So far the sale of fine and superfine rice by FCI for export is concerned, it was revised from time to time on the basis of the recommendations of the High Level Committee. The export sale price was last revised with effect from 1.7.96 as under :-

**Fine/Superfine Rice**

Punjab	-	Rs.7350 per tonne.
Haryana	-	Rs7300 per tonne
Western U.P.	-	Rs7200 per tonne
Madhya Pradesh	-	Rs.7450 per tonne.

(c) to (e). By exporting about 55 lakh tonnes of rice during 1995-96, India became the second largest exporter in the world. Export of rice from the country during 1994-95 was only 8.9 lakh MTs.

**Haj Flights**

2446. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide extra flights for Haj-Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the number of flights being arranged this year;

(c) whether concession is also provided in such flights for Haj-Pilgrimage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). A total of 120 outbound flights and 113 inbound flights were operated from Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras to Saudi Arabia and back for transportation of Haj Pilgrims during Haj, 1996.

The Haj Pilgrim fare for the round trip was fixed by the Government at Rs.19,640.00 which includes a subsidy of Rs.7640 per Haj pilgrim.

[English]

#### Sales Tax/Corporate Tax

2447. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Super Bazar Consumer Society was asked to pay Rs.90.00 lakh as sales tax/corporate tax which has been outstanding for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the taxable earning of the Super Bazar during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the demand made by the sales tax authority; and

(e) the stage at which dispute stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). It has been reported by the Super Bazar Delhi that assessment of sales tax of Super Bazar has been completed upto 1992-93 and income tax upto 1993-94. It has also been reported that they do not have any pending tax liabilities.

(c) It has been reported by the Super Bazar, that they do not have taxable earnings.

(d) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that during the last three years they have paid sales tax as detailed below and they have not received any demand from the Sales Tax Authorities :-

Year	Sales Tax paid (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	150.18
1993-94	182.24
1994-95	215.60

(e) Does not arise.

#### Airport in Kerala

2448. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new Airport being constructed in Kerala has suffered a set back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken to speed-up the construction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Development of Backward Classes

2449. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the development of backward classes in comparison to SCs/STs during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government propose to give representation to backward classes in Parliament and State Legislature like SCs/STs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The following steps have been taken by the Government for the development of backward classes :-

- (i) As in the case of SC/STs, 27% reservation is provided to OBCs in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India in direct recruitment.
- (ii) OBC candidates are given the benefit of relaxed standard in respect of written examination and interviews as in the case of SC/ST candidates.
- (iii) The upper age limit for OBC candidates in direct recruitment has been increased by 3 years as against 5 years given to SC/ST candidates.
- (iv) The number of attempts for OBC candidates who are otherwise eligible has been increased to 7 in respect of Civil Services examinations.
- (v) As in the case of SC/ST a Commission viz. National Commission for Backward Classes has been set up under the NCBC Act, 1993.
- (vi) As in the case of SC/ST, a financial Corporation, viz. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has been set up to promote economic activities for the benefit of backward classes and to assist the poorer sections of these classes in skill development and self-employment ventures.